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Sheriff, Chuck Heit

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Bodycam footage released of officer-involved shooting

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

BENTON HARBOR — The Berrien County Sheriff's Office released Monday an officer body-worn camera video of a deadly shooting that took place June 30 in Niles Charter Township.

During a special conference Monday at the Berrien County Conference Center, Sheriff Chuck Heit shared bodycam footage and images from the officer-involved shooting.

At approximately 6 p.m. Monday, Deputy Cal Landon, who has been with the Berrien County Sheriff's Office for nearly two years, encounters a vehicle on the 1400 block of S. Third Street in Niles Charter Township and found a male and female subject on private property. The male subject, identified by police as 48-year-old South Bend resident Joshua Coffey, states his ID may be inside the vehicle before taking off running southbound along S. Third Street.

Landon then pursued Coffey on foot, who then stopped and raised his left hand but did not show Landon his right hand. Landon then gave verbal commands for male subject to show him his hands. Coffey then dropped to one knee and raised a firearm at Landon, firing at least two shots at him. Landon transitioned from his taser to his firearm and returned fire at the male subject. While on the ground, Landon fired one additional shot.

Moments later, Deputy Sabrina LaRatta arrived as the

See FOOTAGE, Page A8

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
Berrien County Sheriff Chuck Heit addresses media during a special news conference Monday at the Berrien County Conference Center.

Niles KFC closes doors permanently

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES — Niles diners now have one less eatery option as Kentucky Fried Chicken on South 11th Street closed its doors last week.

According to Kelli Ramey, Senior Director of Communications at KBP Brands, the decision was made to permanently close the location due to low performance. As a leased location, the future of the real estate will be determined by the property owner.

KBP Brands acquired the KFC in Niles in September 2018.

"We appreciate all the customers we got to know and serve in that time," Ramey said. "We're grateful to our team members and offered all employees transfers to nearby locations."

Niles Education Foundation to honor graduate Karl Sharkey

COMMUNITY REPORT

NILES — The Niles Education Foundation is kicking off its 2025-26 fundraising campaign with its annual Legendary Evening at 6:30 p.m. Friday, August 8 at Gallery 1245, 1245 S. 11th St..

This year the foundation will honor Niles graduate and retired Vikings teacher Karl Sharkey.

Sharkey is a 1954 graduate of Niles High School. After graduating, he went on to continue his studies receiving his undergraduate degree in Education from Western Michigan University and his Masters in Secondary Education from Michigan State University.

Sharkey

Sharkey started his teaching journey at Battle Creek Lakeview where he taught arts and crafts for two years. At Battle Creek Lakeview he started seventh grade sports programs with baseball, basketball and football. Sharkey would continue to mold young minds when he ventured to Cassopolis for six years teaching Shop and Physical Education. He would continue his coaching career at Cass with basketball and football. Sharkey then moved on to Niles, where he taught special education for 30 years. His love of sports reflected with coaching J.V.

See SHARKEY, Page A8

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ANNUAL NILES BURN RUN SET TO RIDE OUT JULY 27

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

"Founded in 2001 and based in Niles, Michigan, the Niles Burn Run is a 501 C 3 charity run by volunteers with the mission of helping to fund the Great Lakes Burn Camp. All money raised at the event goes directly to the Great Lakes Burn Camp, which hosts summer and winter sleep-away camps for kids who have sustained burn injuries."

NILES — Local area motorcycle riders are gearing up for the annual "Niles Burn Run" event running Friday, July 25 through Sunday, July 27 at Niles Riverfront Park. Participants can register at the event.

Founded in 2001 and based in Niles, Michigan, the Niles Burn Run is a 501 C 3 charity run by volunteers with the mission of helping to fund the Great Lakes Burn Camp. All money raised at the event goes directly to the Great Lakes Burn Camp, which hosts summer and winter sleep-away camps for kids who have sustained burn injuries. Because of groups like the Niles Burn Run, children can attend this camp for free at no cost to their families.

The event kicks off Friday with a free live concert featuring P.T. and the Cruisers from 7 to 9 p.m., alongside the Niles Burn Run Beer Garden hosted by F.O.E. Niles #2094.

Saturday features a car show presented by Automotive Plus. Registration is from 8 to 11 a.m., and awards will be presented at 12:30 p.m. Entry is a $20 donation. Attendees can enjoy more than 40 craft vendors, eight food vendors and live music featuring Katmandu – A Bob Seger Tribute Band from 7 to 9 p.m., plus continued fun at the Beer Garden.

Sunday features the escorted motorcycle ride. Registration and a pancake breakfast hosted by the Christian Motorcycle Association begin at 9 a.m., followed by a pre-ride service. At noon, riders will depart on a 50-mile, police and fire-escorted ride through Berrien and Cass Counties, returning for lunch, raffles and a concert by The Van Dyke Revue. Ride entry is $30 per individual or $40 with a passenger, which includes a meal and event t-shirt. Pre registration by July 15 is required to guarantee a limited-edition ride shirt featuring the iconic image of riders passing under American flags held aloft by fire trucks.

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
Jessica Massey State Farm hosted its fourth annual Family Fun Event Sunday at Riverfront Park in downtown Niles.

OBITUARIES

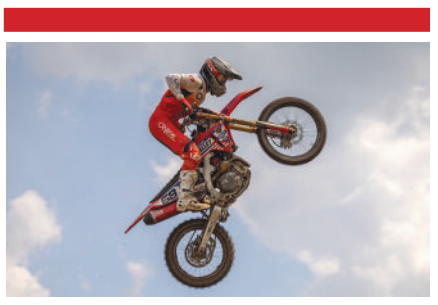
Floyd Jonathon Horner Jr
Dorothy Metzger
Edwin Johnson
William Leroy Hassinger
Matthew Burns
Frank W. Kalina
Floyd Horner, Jr
Warren Weaver
Kayden Sue Morris
Richard C. Binns, Sr.
Vernon Neal

FRANKLY

TIPS, QUIPS, AND BLIPS

"Balanced budget? Another congressional day older, and "deeper in debt"as the song goes."

A2



Shimoda, Jett Lawrence take home 52nd RedBud National titles

B1

FRANKLY

TIPS, QUIPS, AND BLIPS

What is Frankly? It is where readers sound off on issues of the day. Have a tip, quip or blip? Call or text Frankly at 219-455-2349 or email rich.cains@leaderpub.com

A real treat for the summer music in the park. Thank you Dowagiac city management and Skyler Vincek and other featured music artists!

Trump says red stateTexas flooding is a tragedy. He says blue state California lightning fires are incompetence. Where does a Florida hurricane hitting beachfront property fall?

Congress gets elected on promises to balance our budget (spend less and tighten the belt). Does 45 million for an afternoon military parade sound like a frugal expense? Congress just added two trillion to our national debt.

Balanced budget? Another congressional day older, and "deeper in debt" as the song goes.

Our expensive Congress failed to secure the border after 25 years of promise after promise. Then came President Trump... Now immigration and border control is finally being addressed and secured. Kudos.

Thank you, Lord, for the fantastic weather and the fun I had over the 4th of July with friends and family.

Please drive slowly on Hwy 12. Road workers should not have to dodge speeding vehicles. No one's life is less valuable than you making your dinner on time.

Thank you to those of you helping to beautify our cities and towns by planting flowers for all to see. Trust me, it doesn't go unnoticed by those of us passing by.

Please be careful swimming in Lake Michigan. Rip currents are killers. Obey the red flag and stay out of the water when it is waving.

WEATHER

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
70% Chance of Storms	30% Chance of Storms	Mostly Sunny	30% Chance of Rain	50% Chance of Storms	50% Chance of Rain
90° 72°	82° 65°	88° 68°	91° 73°	90° 66°	80° 63°

PROTESTORS DENOUNCE TRUMP'S 'BIG, BEAUTIFUL BILL'

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES — Dozens of protesters gathered in front of Representative Tim Walberg's Niles office Monday afternoon to voice their concerns over the passing of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act.

Signed into law July 4, the act will make 2017 income tax cuts permanent, scale back social initiatives like Medicaid and SNAP, increase the budget for immigration enforcement, create new, narrow tax breaks for tips and overtime, implement new benefits for businesses and roll back clean energy tax credits and more.

Proponents of the bill believe it will fuel growth and cut waste and fraud in programs like Medicaid whereas detractors believe the bill is a redistribution of wealth from the poor to the rich.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office has estimated that the bill will increase the number of people without health insurance by 17 million over the next 10 years. It also projected that the country's deficit – the amount of money the US owes – would climb by about $3.3 trillion over the same period.

MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

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Edwardsburg school board talks US-12 access drive project

By JUSTIN FLAGEL
Leader Publications Contributor

EDWARDSBURG — The Edwardsburg School Board met for a brief meeting to close out various items for the end of the 2024-25 school year.

A bid recommendation by The Skillman Corporation for an access drive on US 12 was approved. The bid came in under the expected budget at the cost of $1,744,000 and includes sitework, asphalt paving, concrete and electrical work. Though aspects of the project are still awaiting Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) approval, Superintendent Dr. Courtney Szucs was hopeful about the prospects and expected a decision before the end of July. Initial clearing of the area can begin prior to the approval in areas not affected by the MDOT decision. Though construction is expected to be ongoing at the start of the next school year, back parking lots and a drop off area are projected to be finished before students resume classes.

The board approved several items for the next school year, including new Board of Education Bylaws and Policies and the 2025-26 meeting schedule. The board will meet on the following dates for the next school year: August 18th, September 22nd, October 27th, November 24th, December 15th, January 26th, February 23rd, March 23rd, April 27th, May 18th, June 22nd, and July 6.

The board also approved an update to the sexual education curriculum based on recommendations from an advisory board that has been made up of administration, teachers, parents, local clergy and medical professionals. The updates follow the latest version of the Michigan Model for Health, moving away from older technology to content now available online and provided free to the district through a Michigan health department grant.

Niles man gets prison time for beating, stabbing, strangling woman

By DEBRA HAIGHT
Leader Publications Contributor

NILES — A Niles man is going to prison after being convicted of assaulting a woman earlier this year. He was sentenced Monday in Berrien County Trial Court at the Niles Courthouse.

Mez-Visel

Michael Alejandro Meza-Visel, 22, of Niles, pleaded guilty to assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder and was sentenced to 67 months to 10 years in prison with credit for 56 days served. He must pay $198 in fines and costs.

He also had his probation revoked and his conviction entered from a previous misdemeanor domestic violence sentence.

The current incident occurred May 12 in Niles. According to statements made in court, the victim was beaten and stabbed before being strangled in the incident.

The victim spoke before the sentencing. She said she felt sorry for the defendant. She also disputed the defendant's statements that he had blacked out and didn't remember the assault. "He knew what he did was wrong ... he knows what he did," she said.

Defense attorney Carri Briseno noted that her client is still young and hasn't gotten the mental health treatment he needs in the past. "It will take time for him to treat himself and take care of himself," she said. "He needs to get mental health treatment."

Briseno acknowledged that Meza-Visel had an extensive juvenile record and said she was surprised he had never gotten mental health help in the past. She described his childhood as "erratic."

"I believe him that he blacked out," Briseno said. "He was not immediately cognizant that he had frightened the victim and others. He does take responsibility for his actions. It was a turbulent relationship."

For his part, Meza-Visel took responsibility for his actions and apologized. He said the incident occurred at a time when he had suicidal ideations.

Berrien County Assistant Prosecutor Myrene Koch said that Meza-Visel would not initially allow the victim to leave and seek medical help for her injuries.

"One of the things that stands out for me is that it is evident that he didn't take responsibility for his actions or show remorse," she said. "He claims he blacked out and doesn't remember. He's had eight prior probations where he hasn't learned how to control himself."

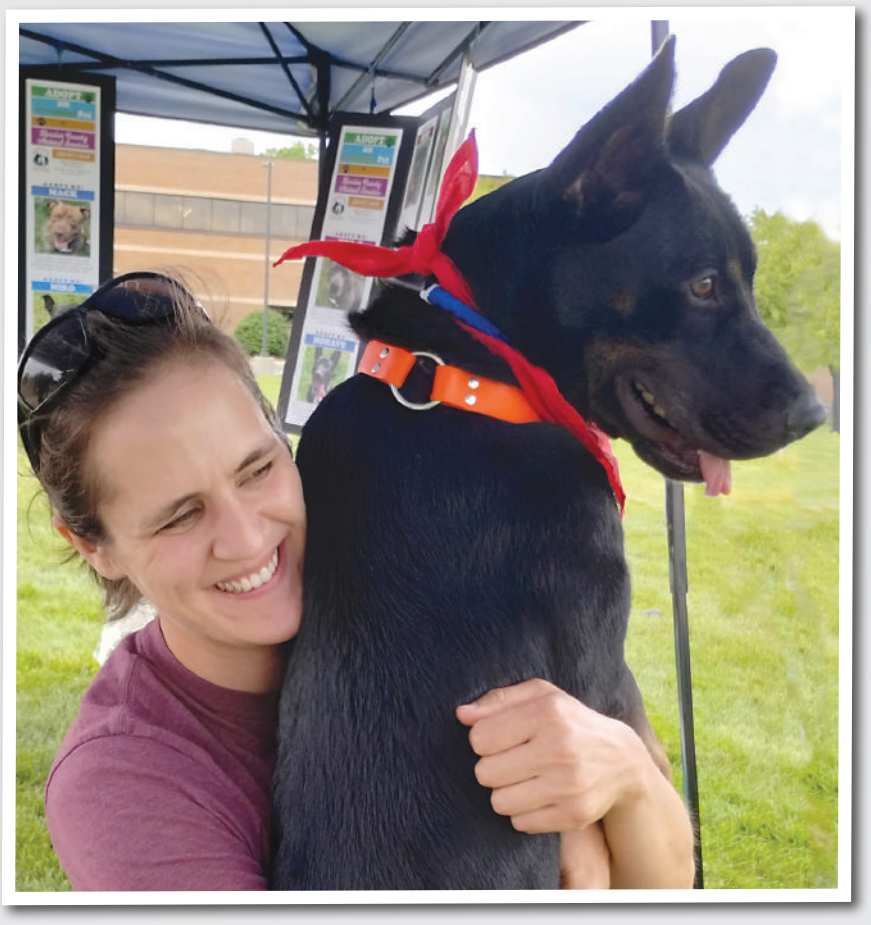
Berrien County Trial Court Judge Gordon Hosbein agreed with Koch's request to sentence Meza-Visel at the top of the guidelines. The sentencing guidelines called for a sentence of between 34 and 67 months in prison.

"This is an offense that is highly disturbing," Judge Hosbein said. "The way you treat women is not okay. Your history shows a pattern that is disturbing to me."

"You do need mental health treatment and rehabilitation but the community also needs to be protected," he added. "Your guidelines are what they are because of your history and your actions. I find it reasonable to sentence you at the high end of the guidelines."

PET OF THE WEEK

Meet **Mohave**, a shepherd from Berrien County Animal Services. She is described by volunteers as eager to please, energetic and an enthusiastic companion who lives life with gusto and positivity. Mohave is estimated to be 4-6 year0 s old, is spayed, current on shots and microchipped. Contact Berrien County Animal Services at (269) 927-5648.



Twice-sunken Lake Michigan barge successfully relocated

COMMUNITY REPORT

LANSING — A twice-sunken Lake Michigan barge that raised environmental concerns has now been relocated to a legal location, announced Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel. The barge's owner, Donald Lewis Balcom, 90, of Traverse City, pled guilty last April in the 13th Circuit Court in Leelanau County to one count of Water Resources Protection Violation for Discharge of Injurious Substances to Waters of the State, a two-year felony. The charge stemmed from a November of 2020 incident, when the barge sank and released oil into Lake Michigan.

Under a deferred sentencing agreement, Balcom was given until June 27, 2025, to relocate the barge to a legal location, which would convert his felony conviction to one count of Watercraft Pollution – Littering from Vessel, a 92-day misdemeanor. On Monday, June 23, 2025, the barge was moved to a legal location in West Grand Traverse Bay. Over the past week, the barge has been partially dismantled and is no longer on state-owned Lake Michigan bottomlands.

"After years of environmental concerns and legal proceedings, I am pleased the barge has finally been moved and to announce the resolution of this case," Nessel said. "We have made it abundantly clear that the bay cannot be treated as a personal junkyard. My department remains committed to working with the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy to protect the Great Lakes whenever they come under threat."

In 2023, the Attorney General issued seven criminal charges against Balcom following years of efforts by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy to work with Balcom toward a resolution of the issue of the sunken industrial barge and contamination of Grand Traverse Bay on the northwestern coast of Michigan's Lower Peninsula. The barge was moved to a legal location, entitling Balcom to the reduced sentence. The Court has yet to issue an amended judgment of sentence.

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Opinion

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Protect McCoy's Creek

In the past Buchanan's McCoy's Creek was a valuable asset with its water power, wildlife and natural beauty that attracted people to the area. Later disregard caused the dumping of garbage and sewage making the creek dangerous, ugly and a place to avoid. That is the reason I became co-founder of Friends of McCoy's Creek in the 1990s. Citizens stepped forward and volunteered their time to pull out over 200 tons of garbage. Trees were maintained for all-year shade that keeps the water cool for healthy fish. The citizens' restoration was honored across the nation and spurred interest in this area's beautiful trees, rare wildlife such as woodpeckers and owls and other natural beauty.

Then cutbacks by the City of Buchanan on placement of barrels added to trash going into the watershed unnecessarily while city taxes still remained high. A low impact nature-friendly trail was proposed after the cleanups started to allow access to the creek, but the early motto was to do no harm to nature.

Over time, people apparently forgot to protect our natural asset by allowing strip mining bank deforestation to harm the creek, destroying habitat, making it look like a ditch. Was this done on purpose?

Today the McCoy's Creek Trail is no longer a nature area. Not understanding the consequences of actions created the situation that prompted citizens to stand up for the creek in the first place. New actions taken around the creek are worse than earlier actions. Now it's not a nature-friendly trail. Its "Walk around Buchanan" sidewalks heat up the environment. Signs are everywhere saying to avoid contact with the creek contamination that can put your children and pets at risk. The fencing between River and Front streets looks like a prison walk area.

We need to assemble a new group of Buchanan City residents with common sense, who understand the law and the rights of property owners, who will once again adopt the motto "Do No Harm" to the creek. The designated trout stream, one of three in the entire state of Michigan, is at risk. It's time once again to save our natural asset if it's not already too late.

Scott A. King
Buchanan

Dowagiac Connected Thanks Community

It was a beautiful evening for the 12th annual Dowagiac Connected fireworks show! The heat did not stop our community from coming out to Russom Park on Friday, June 27th to enjoy the fireworks with their friends and family.

While we are grateful for the opportunity to organize this event, we recognize that it is not only "our" event. Funded entirely by donors, the fireworks are brought to you by the generosity of local businesses and individuals who desire to bring joy to you and your family through this event. We are humbled by their support and proud to partner with them to host the fireworks.

To that end, we would like to thank the following:

Kirk Proshwitz and team, our pyrotechnician who carefully plans and curates the show each year.

The Dowagiac City Council, Airport Director Oscar Azevedo, Public Safety Officer Steve Grinnewald, Dowagiac Fire Department chief Anthony Stewart and neighboring fire departments for their cooperation in organizing the event.

The AYSO concession stand, Dowagiac Youth Baseball and Softball Association concession stand, La Chula Food Truck, Ben's Pretzels, Firemen's Pizza, SWAT Sweets With A Twist and East Coast Concessions for providing food and other items.

Special thank you to Faithful Hauling for providing trash bins, dumpster and trash removal services. Pride LLC for providing portable restrooms. Creative Vinyl for printing the donor banner and signs.

Dowagiac Connected team members who gave their time to organize and volunteer for the event.

Mr. Schuur and the Dowagiac Choir for next-day clean up volunteers.

All the attendees who came to enjoy the show and made our efforts worthwhile.

Grand Finale Sponsors ($500 and above): Lyon's Industries, Don Lyons for Mayor, Imperial Furniture, Jim D's Body Shop, Southwestern Michigan College, C. Wimberley Automotive Group, Honor Credit Union, Brent & Erin Brewer

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With gratitude for all,
Dowagiac Connected

NEWS

LMC awarded grant to expand emergency student aid

COURTESY OF LAKE MICHIGAN COLLEGE

BENTON HARBOR — Lake Michigan College is taking steps to ensure that students facing financial hardship can stay enrolled and complete their education.

Thanks to a $99,954 MiLEAP Breaking Barriers Direct to Students grant, the College is launching a significant initiative to simplify and expand access to emergency aid. The project is led by Leslie Navarro, Director of Student Well-Being & Accessibility.

"This is about removing roadblocks," Navarro said. "Students who are in crisis don't have time to navigate a complicated system. We're making it easier for them to get what they need and stay enrolled."

The new initiative combines four separate aid sources—the Student Success Fund, Veterans Education Assistance Fund, Perkins Cost Assistance Fund, and the Barrier Grant—into a single, unified system. This integration aims to expedite financial assistance for students facing urgent situations, including food insecurity, housing instability, childcare challenges, or a lack of essential academic supplies.

Key features of the initiative include a centralized application, a shared review process, and stronger cross-departmental coordination. Additionally, upgraded technology and a new data dashboard will enable real-time tracking, enhanced communication, and equity monitoring.

Departments involved in the project include Financial Aid, Disability Services, Veteran Services, and Student Affairs. By streamlining services and eliminating duplication, the College anticipates improvements in retention and completion, particularly for students who face barriers outside the classroom.

The project is a direct response to internal data showing that over one-third of LMC students experience food insecurity, with many others struggling to pay for housing, transportation, or childcare. "In situations where students are choosing between paying rent or buying groceries, timely support can mean the difference between staying enrolled and dropping out," Navarro said.

"Supporting student success and empowering students to overcome barriers is central to LMC's mission," said Dr. Ken Flowers, Executive Vice President, "and we are strongly committed to continuing programs that prove effective in advancing those goals." The College will regularly review data and evaluate the program's impact to inform future decisions about sustainability.

To be eligible, students must be enrolled in a degree-seeking program,

See GRANT, Page A7

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

Cass Family Clinic to host ribbon-cutting for new mobile health clinic

COMMUNITY REPORT

CASSOPOLIS — Cass Family Clinic will host a ribbon-cutting event on Tuesday, July 15, for its new Mobile Health Clinic. The event will take place at Cass Family Clinic's Cass location, 261 M-62 North, in Cassopolis.

The Mobile Clinic will offer health and wellness exams, sports physicals, substance use disorder behavioral therapy, acute musculoskeletal issues, blood pressure checks, influenza vaccinations, patient education, and medical and financial resources to the residents of Southwest Michigan.

The clinic services are available to anyone in the community, not just Cass Family Clinic patients. Residents may register as a Cass Family Clinic patient at the Mobile Clinic. It will operate Monday through Thursday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Scheduled and walk-in appointments will be available.

Niles Daily Star

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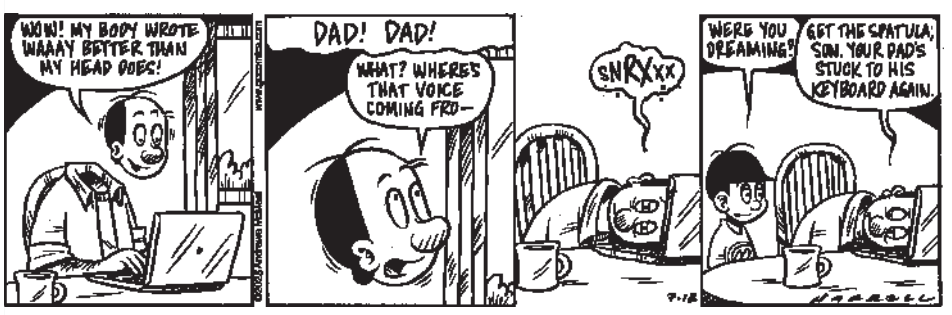
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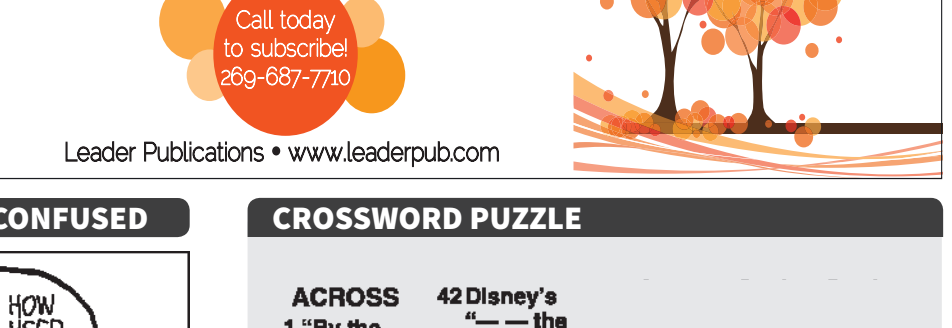
ALLEY OOP

THANKS FOR HELPING US, MR. WIZARD.
"MR. WIZARD" WAS MY FATHER. YOU CAN CALL ME DR. WIZARD. I HAVE A PH.D.
I SENSE YOU'RE FAR FROM HOME AND WANT TO RETURN THERE.
WOW! YOU READ MY MIND! I MEAN, IF I HAD BEEN THINKING THAT.
LET'S SEE IF WE CAN FIND YOUR HOME ON THIS.
THANKS, BUT I DON'T THINK YOU'LL SEE IT ON THAT TINY MAP.
YOU DIDN'T LET ME FINISH UNFOLDING ALL THE DIMENSIONS ON THAT TINY MAP.
OOH, I THINK I CAN SEE MY CAVE!

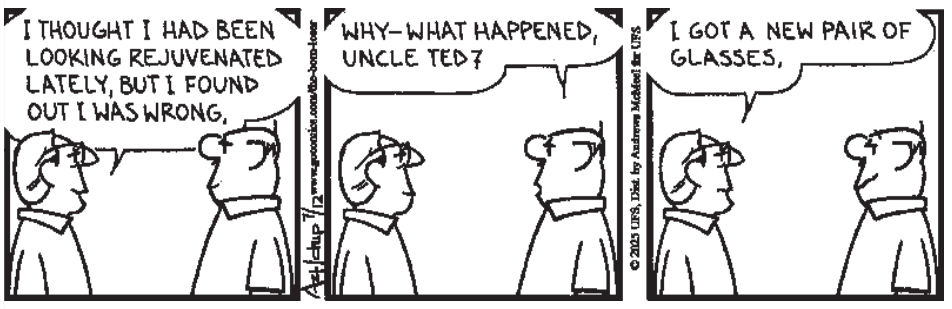
ARLO & JANIS

Please rate the movie you watched last evening.
Please review your recent purchase from us.
Please help us help you! Was your experience with us satisfactory?
THE WORLD WAS A BETTER PLACE WHEN NOBODY WANTED MY OPINION!
Johnson 7/12

BIG NATE


I DON'T GET IT. GINA AND I HAVE SO MUCH IN COMMON. GINA AND CHAD HAVE NOTHING IN COMMON!
WHY IS SHE SO CRAZY ABOUT HIM?
THAT'S AN ETERNAL QUESTION OF LOVE.
I HEAR IT LITERALLY EVERY DAY.
HEY, WHO WANTS TO HAVE A BURPING CONTEST?

BORN LOSER

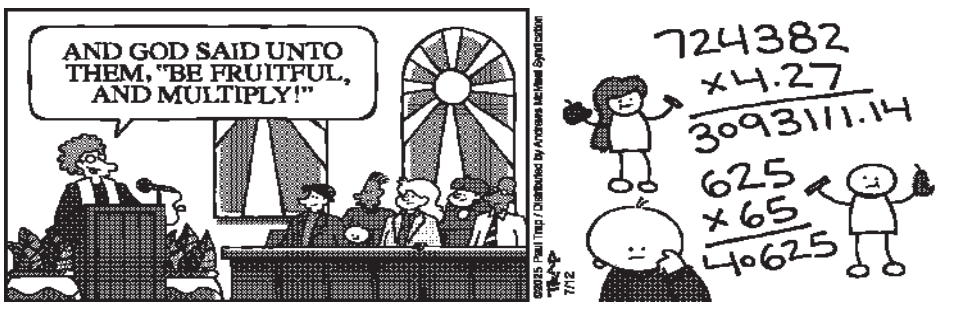

I THOUGHT I HAD BEEN LOOKING REJUVENATED LATELY, BUT I FOUND OUT I WAS WRONG.
WHY–WHAT HAPPENED, UNCLE TED?
I GOT A NEW PAIR OF GLASSES.

FRANK & ERNEST

GRIZZWELLS

FLORA HATES WHEN I WEAR BOXER SHORTS AROUND THE HOUSE AFTER WORK!
AMEN!
YOU HAD A PROBLEM THAT TIME I WORE MY FAVORITE BOXERS TO WORK?
I'M JUST SAYING, WE SHOULD RESPECT A DRESS CODE AT WORK!

THATABABY



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SODOKU PUZZLE

HOW TO PLAY: Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

DIFFICULTY RATING: 5/5

ANSWER ON PAGE 6

	3			7	5			9
	1				3			4
	8			4		7		
		5				3		
3				5				2
		6				1		
		2		1			9	
8			7				5	
7			5	8			1	

MODERATELY CONFUSED

THIS IS HOW PEOPLE USED TO STAY IN TOUCH BEFORE SOCIAL MEDIA.
STAHLER 7/12
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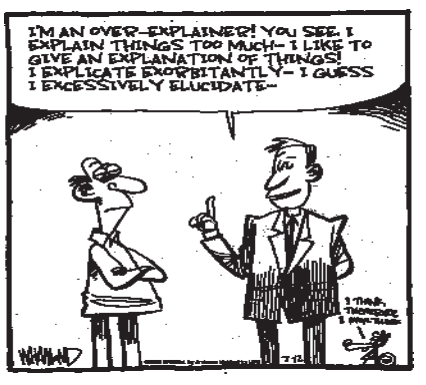
REALITY CHECK

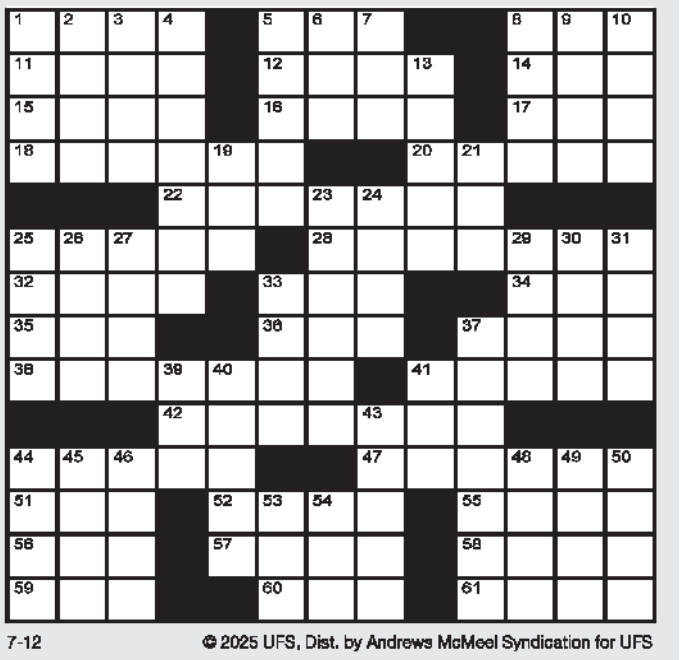

I'M AN OVER-EXPLAINER! YOU SEE, I EXPLAIN THINGS TOO MUCH– I LIKE TO GIVE AN EXPLANATION OF THINGS! I EXPLICATE EXORBITANTLY– I GUESS I EXCESSIVELY ELUCIDATE–

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS
1 "By the — token ..."
5 Chair part
8 Burst
11 Settled after flight
12 Kitchen item
14 Cakes and —
15 Strike repeatedly
16 Bristle
17 Teeny-tiny
18 Lure
20 Benefactor
22 Cut short
25 — the Grouch
28 Obstacles
32 Ship part
33 London's Big —
34 Wood for baseball bats
35 UK country
36 "Non-sensel"
37 Gentle hill
38 "An — and a Gentleman"
41 Observed
42 Disney's "— — the Tramp"
44 Saunters
47 Extent
51 Coin used in old France
52 Dull sound
55 Actor James — Jones
56 Dry, as wine
57 Facilitate
58 Fixes fraudulently
59 Endeavor
60 Sailor
61 — gin fizz

DOWN
1 Store event
2 Actor — Alda
3 Fine spray
4 Moral
5 Also-ran
6 The night before
7 Understand
8 Chess piece
9 Substitute for butter
10 Equal
13 Lowest point
19 Mongrel
21 Aged
23 "The Big Bang —"
24 Family member
25 Buckeye State
26 Ride a wave
27 Symbol used in sheet music
29 Cafe au —
30 Being, to Brutus
31 Molt
33 Engendered
37 "Oklahoma!" composer
39 Type
40 Class
41 Compass point (Abbr.)
43 Snake
44 Bridge seat
45 Genus of maples
46 "— in the Sky With Diamonds"
48 Marsh bird
49 Therefore
50 Word in an ultimatum
53 Bowler
54 Mex. neighbor

ANSWER ON PAGE 6



7-12

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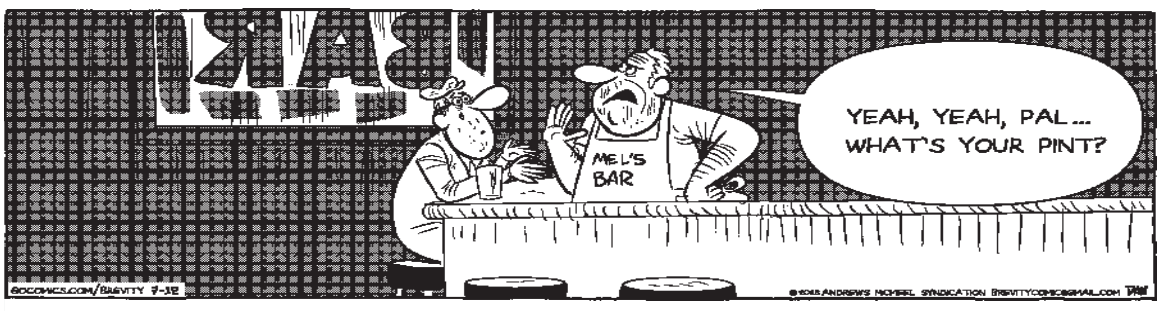
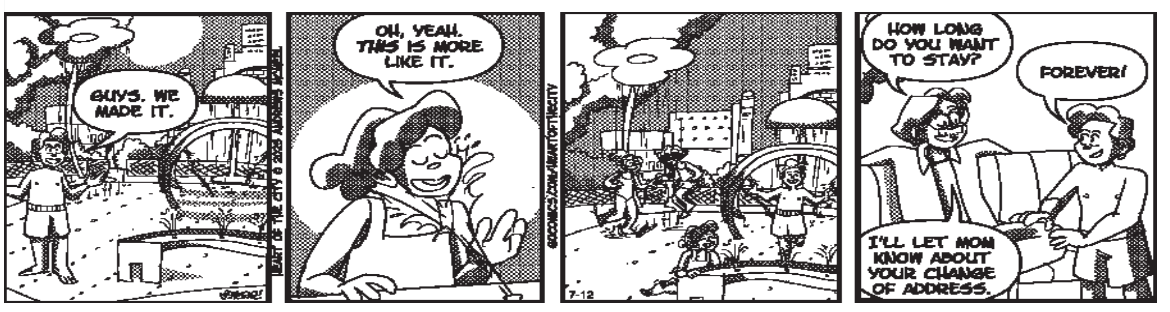
BREVITY



HEART OF THE CITY


GUYS. WE MADE IT.
OH, YEAH. THIS IS MORE LIKE IT.
HOW LONG DO YOU WANT TO STAY?
FOREVER!
I'LL LET MOM KNOW ABOUT YOUR CHANGE OF ADDRESS.
7-12

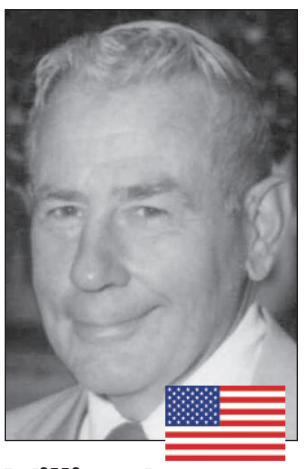
DEATH NOTICES

Floyd Jonathon Horner Jr, 62, passed away on Wednesday, July 2, 2025, in Niles, Michigan. Arrangements have been entrusted to and are pending with Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Dorothy Metzger, 93, of Berrien Springs, passed away on Wednesday, July 02, 2025. Arrangements were entrusted to Allred Funeral Home in Berrien Springs. Services were held on July 8. www.AllredFuneralHome.com

Edwin Johnson, 70, of Cassopolis, died Wednesday, July 9, 2025. Arrangements are pending at Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, Cassopolis.

OBITUARIES



William Leroy Hassinger

August 21, 1926
- June 29, 2025

William L. Hassinger, age 98 of Edwardsburg, MI, died peacefully on June 29, 2025 in the comfort of his family's presence.

He was born to John and Margaret (Ridenour) Hassinger on August 21, 1926, in South Bend, IN. Bill moved to Niles with his family in 1936 where he attended school and graduated in 1944. He was then drafted into the army and served in the Philippines and later Japan with the occupying forces until September 1946 when he was honorably discharged. Upon his return home, he resumed his position at Simplicity Pattern Company which he had started in his senior year of high school. It was at Simplicity Pattern where he met his future wife. On September 8, 1951 he married Eleanor Marie Jann at the First Presbyterian Church in Niles afterward raising four children and sharing over 72 years of marriage.

Bill's top priorities in life were following his Christian faith and taking care of his family. Bill's talent was working with young people. As a young man himself, he worked with the youth group at First Presbyterian Church in Niles. When his boys were at an age when they could enter sports, he coached them in both basketball and baseball. Later, when he became a bus driver for Niles schools, he was approached and asked to become the driver for the Niles sports teams. He did so for several years and loved it; making lasting friendships with both the coaches and the athletes.

Later in life and after retirement, Bill's focus became his grandchildren. He always enjoyed attending their extra-curricular school events such as band concerts, choir concerts, school plays, and sporting events. In the summer he would spend time with them swimming and picnicking at Barron Lake. He also enjoyed taking them on long bike rides around Niles, stopping at every Dairy Queen along the way for a treat.

Bill will be greatly missed by family and friends. He is survived by his daughters, Teri Hassinger of Edwardsburg, Jann (Rick) Eichler of Edwardsburg, and sons Val (Marcia) Hassinger of Niles and Neil (Kathleen) Hassinger of Edwardsburg. Four grandchildren, Amber (Allen) Boshoven of Freeport, MI, Tiffany Eichler of Edwardsburg, Erika (Matt) Frizzell of South Bend, IN, and Aaron (Kathleen) Hassinger of Edwardsburg, six great grandchildren, numerous nieces and nephews, and brother-in-law and sister-in-law John and Lucy Jann of Niles.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife Eleanor, sisters Ada (Harry) Hilbert, and Irma (John) Scamehorn and infant twin granddaughters.

Family and friends will gather Sunday, July 6, 2025 from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM at Halbritter Wickens Funeral Services, Niles, MI. The funeral service will begin at 10:00 AM on Monday, July 7, 2025 at the Edwardsburg Presbyterian Church 68982 Lake Street (corner of Church Street), with viewing one hour prior. He will be laid to rest at Mission Hills Memorial Gardens following the service.

The family would like to thank the staff of Caring Circle Hospice for the kind and compassionate care Bill received in his final days.

Those wishing to make a memorial contribution are asked to consider Corewell Health Hospice and Palliative Care of Southwest Michigan, 4025 Health Park Lane, St. Joseph, MI 49085, or another organization of their own choosing.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Halbritter Wickens Funeral Services in Niles. Please share a memory or a message online: halbritterwickens.com.

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Matthew Burns

September 23, 1974
- July 2, 2025

Matthew Joel Burns, 50, of Niles, died July 2, 2025.

His life began September 23, 1974, in Niles, the oldest of two children born to Donald Burns and Merva Zaleski.

Matthew was a graduate of Brandywine HIgh School Class of 1993. He was an avid fan of Penn State and would always watch football games on Saturday. Matthew was a clinical supervisor medical assistant at Corewell Health Lakeland in Niles within the orthopedic surgical office. He previously worked at TK in New Carlisle, Home Depot in Mishawaka, Cass County Medical Facility and West Woods of Niles. He was the first person his family would call if they were hurt or needed anything at all, he was always there. Matthew played guitar and vocals in local bands, most recently Erroneous Life. He loved music, especially 80's and 90's rock. Matthew and his brother, Nathan, would work together to build or troubleshoot a variety of things, from cars to home improvement projects. His greatest passion was setting up his family's haunted house that was at his home, Nightmare on 13th and Fulkerson, and has been operating for almost nineteen years. He spent many hours on the lake, between fishing and kayaking, with Carey and Alicia. Matthew was a family man and cherished the time he spent with them.

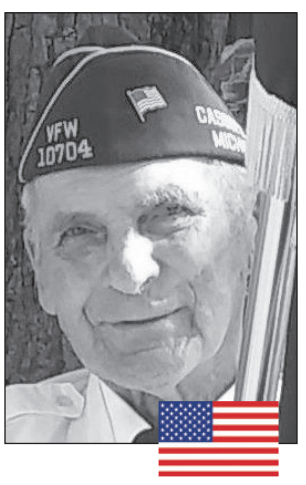
Matthew will be greatly missed by family and friends. He is survived by his fiance Carey Modlin of Niles; her children, Alex (Zoey Swisher) Jaqua of Niles, Matthew (Ren Anderson) Jaqua of Buchanan; her granddaughter, Amaya; two step-daughters, Dannielle (Jesse) Jaynes of South Bend, Alicia McMillan of Niles; two step-sons, Matthew (Nikki) McMillan of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina; Austin McMillan of Niles; two brothers, Nathan Burns of Niles, Gabriel Zaleski of Kalamazoo; mother, Merva (James) Zaleski; son-in-law, Lusman (Veronica Diaz) Roblero of South Bend; and two special dogs, Mookie and Journee.

He was preceded in death by his father; his former wife, Carrie Burns; step-daughter, Ashley Roblero; and grandson Stephen Dunifin.

Family and friends will gather Wednesday, July 9, 2025, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in Halbritter Wickens Funeral Services, 615 East Main Street, Niles, Michigan, 49120. Funeral services will be Thursday, July 10, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. in Summit Church, 1700 West River Road, Niles, Michigan, 49120.

Matthew will be laid to rest in Silverbrook Cemetery.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Halbritter Wickens Funeral Services, Niles. Please share a memory or a message online: halbritterwickens.com.



Frank W. Kalina

March 4, 1941
- July 3, 2025

Frank William Kalina, 84, of Cassopolis, died peacefully Thursday, July 3, 2025 in the comfort of his family's presence.

His life began March 4, 1941 in Chicago, Illinois, the oldest of six children born to William and Helen Kalina. He married Vickie Sue Charles November 26, 1966 in Cassopolis, Michigan.

Frank was a Vietnam veteran who served honorably in the U.S. Army. He loved his family, especially his grandchildren, Lionel trains, farming, and enjoyed eating at Golden Corral. His family describes his as being the hardest working, strongest willed, and toughest man they knew.

Frank will be greatly missed by family and friends. He is survived by his wife of fifty-eight years, Vickie Kalina; one son, William (Tara) Kalina; two daughters, Nicole (Paul) Sickmiller, Lisa Marie (Daniel) Pletcher; seven grandchildren, Zack Rodabaugh, Seth Kalina, Gavin Kalina, Emily Kalina, Donovan Sickmiller, Nicolas Sickmiller, Melanie Sickmiller; two sisters, Phyllis Mosher, Teresa (Jim) Hershberger; one sister-in-law, Euna Kalina; and a host of nieces and nephews.

Frank was preceded in death by his parents; one brother who died in infancy; one sister, Patricia McCourt; one brother, Joseph Kalina; and one brother-in-law, Charles "Tucky" Mosher.

Family and friends will gather Wednesday, July 9, 2025 from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. in Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, 202 North Broadway Street, Cassopolis with a Rosary prayed at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday evening. The Funeral Mass will be celebrated Thursday, July 10, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. in Saint Ann Catholic Church, 421 North Broadway Street, Cassopolis with additional calling one hour prior beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Frank will be laid to rest in Mission Hills Memorial Gardens in Sumnerville where he will be accorded full military honors.

The family prefers contributions in memory of Frank be made to Lt. William E. Lozier VFW Post 10704, 131 South Broadway Street, Cassopolis, Michigan 49031.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, Cassopolis. Please share a memory or a message online: wagnercares.com.

Floyd Horner, Jr

February 28, 1963
- July 2, 2025

Floyd Jonathon Horner, Jr, age 62, of Niles, Michigan, passed away peacefully on July 2, 2025. Born on February 28, 1963, in Buchanan, Michigan, Floyd was a man who lived a full life, marked by devotion to his family, a passion for the outdoors, and a generous spirit that touched everyone he knew.

Floyd was the cherished son of the late Floyd and Helen Horner, Sr., and the beloved husband of the late Donna (Murdock) Horner. His legacy continues through his adoring children, Ryan (Amanda) Horner and Stephanie (Bill) Matthews, and his grandchildren, Aiden Deal, Violet Horner, Jonathon Horner, who were the apples of his eye. Floyd was a loving brother to his late sister, Rosemary Wolf, and a fond uncle to his nephews, the late Robert Stewart, Steve (Cindy) Stewart, Scott (Khrista) Stewart, and John Stewart.

After graduating from high school, Floyd dedicated many years to the RV industry where he expertly oversaw the powder coating paint line. His diligence and attention to detail were unparalleled, making him a respected figure among his colleagues and within the industry.

Floyd's passions for life were evident in his many interests. His family was paramount, and he cherished every moment spent with them. An avid fisherman and outdoor enthusiast, Floyd found solace in the tranquility of nature, whether it was on the serene waters of Barron Lake in the summer or the crisp trails while snowmobiling in the winter. His love for the open road was fulfilled on his Harley, with which he explored and enjoyed numerous adventures, including memorable trips to Mexico.

Those who knew Floyd described him as loving, wise, and generous. He was a meticulous person, not only in his work but in all aspects of his life, ensuring that every detail was taken care of with precision and care. His dependability made him a pillar in his community, always ready to lend a hand or offer support.

Floyd Horner, Jr. lived his life as a testament to the values he held dear—love, wisdom, and generosity. His presence will be profoundly missed by his family, friends, and all who had the pleasure of knowing him. As he reunites with his beloved wife, parents, sister, and nephew, his spirit will continue to inspire and guide us.

A Celebration of Life for Floyd will be held on Sunday, July 13, 2025 at 5:00pm at Faith for Life Church, 1928 E Bertrand Rd. Niles, MI 49120.

We take comfort in knowing that Floyd's love and teachings will live on in the hearts of his family and the fond memories shared by all. His legacy is one of unconditional love, unwavering support, and the joy of life's simple pleasures. Floyd Jonathon Homer, Jr.'s story is one of a life well-lived and a man well loved.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Photos, condolences, and memories may be left for Floyd's family at www.BrownFuneralHomeNiles.com

Warren Weaver

January 12, 1943
- July 3, 2025

Warren L. Weaver, 82, of Niles, passed away on Thursday, July 3, 2025, at Wellbrooke of South Bend. Arrangements have been entrusted to Swem Chapel & Cremation Services. Per Warren's request, cremation has taken place and there will be no services. Those wishing to leave an online condolence may do so at www.swemchapel.com. Warren was born on January 12, 1943, in Buchanan, to Glenn & Georgia (Topping) Weaver. Professionally, Warren served the City of Buchanan as a fireman for 35 years, and held the title of Chief for 25 of those years. He also held the position of City Building Inspector for over 20 years, as well as City Commissioner for several years. Warren also enjoyed spending time working on a pig farm and running the equipment on a dairy farm. One of Warren's favorite hobbies was going on a drive through the countryside; although it would take 2-3 hours he would take in the scenery and embrace the company and conversations that came with those drives. Later in life, Warren

See OBITUARIES, Page A7

CROSSWORD ANSWER
From Page 5

S	A	M	E		L	E	G			P	O	P		
A	L	I	T		O	V	E	N		A	L	E		
L	A	S	H		S	E	T	A		W	E	E		
E	N	T	I	C	E			D	O	N	O	R		
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S	E	C		E	A	S	E		R	I	G	S		
T	R	Y			T	A	R		S	L	O	E		

SUDOKU ANSWER
From Page 5

2	3	4	1	7	5	6	8	9
6	1	7	8	9	3	5	2	4
5	8	9	6	4	2	7	3	1
1	2	5	9	6	7	3	4	8
3	7	8	4	5	1	9	6	2
9	4	6	2	3	8	1	7	5
4	5	2	3	1	6	8	9	7
8	6	1	7	2	9	4	5	3
7	9	3	5	8	4	2	1	6

GRANT

Continued from page A4

demonstrate financial need (such as Pell eligibility), and provide documentation of an urgent emergency (like an eviction notice or medical bill). Additional risk factors such as parenting status, disability, or veteran status are also considered.

Although other institutions offer emergency aid, LMC's model is one of the most comprehensive in the state. "This initiative reflects LMC's leadership in removing barriers and creating clear, supported pathways to student success," said Navarro.

LMC Foundation Gives a Major Boost to Short Term Training Programs

The Lake Michigan College Foundation has established a $100 thousand dollar scholarship fund for non-credit short term training programs to help employers and workers in Southwest Michigan.

"Employers and job providers have told us short term training opportunities like the LMC Truck Driving School, and the Marine Maintenance Technology program are in high demand," explained Doug Schaffer, Vice President of Advancement and Community Impact. "Those programs, however, are not eligible for traditional financial aid like Pell grants or state scholarship programs. This is the LMC Foundation stepping in to fill a significant need in our community to help students with career opportunities," Schaffer explained.

Commercial Driver's License

Short term programs include the LMC Truck Driving School and the recently added Marine Maintenance Technology program. The CDL short term training program at LMC is in partnership with Regen Trucking School. All requirements are met in one three-week session at the South Haven campus. The career outlook for truck drivers is strong, with projected growth and high demand. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics forecasts a 5% growth rate for heavy and tractor trailer drivers over the next 10 years and a 9% growth rate for delivery truck drivers. Those statistics are both greater than the average for all occupations and with an aging workforce, thousands of opportunities exist across the Midwest.

"We have a great deal of interest in truck driving, but the stumbling block has been the lack of financial aid for students," said Jeremy Burleson, Associate Dean of the South Haven Campus, and Select Academic Programs. "The Lake Michigan College Foundation is paving the way for high paying jobs, and we are grateful to LMC donors and leaders for again removing barriers for people in our community. This is great news for our region and our students," Burleson added.

Marine Maintenance Technician

In Michigan alone, there are more than one million registered boats, and thousands of boats and slips in Southwest Michigan. LMC's Marine Maintenance Technician program helps meet the growing demand in a seven-week training course. Through on-line and in person training, students work toward a lifetime Mercury Marine Technician number and prepare for the American Boat and Yacht Technology exam. The Marine Tech program is a partnership between LMC and Macomb Community College.

"Marine owners up and down the coast are looking for techs, and this is another way Lake Michigan College meets the needs of our employers," Burleson said.

For information on short term training programs, contact Jeremy Burleson at JBurleson@lakemichigancollege.edu or call 269-637-7514.

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OBITUARIES

Continued from page A6

would marry Sandra "Sandy" Sherwood, on September 12, 2020. Although the two were only married for a short time they had over 60 years of friendship they shared together. Warren is survived by his wife, Sandy, of Niles; daughter, Kelley Burks of Buchanan; grandchildren, Cheryl (Andy) Warner and one grandson; great-grandchildren, Cordelia, Winter, Lorrie and Agnes Warner; brother, Max (Nancy) Weaver; nephews, Domenick (Amber) Weaver, Russell (Diane) Thomas, and David (Tori) Wineger; step-sons, Jon (Debbie) Sherwood, Tom (Sabrinia) Sherwood, and Scott (Lynda) Sherwood all of Niles; and step-grandchildren, Ellie & Leighton Sherwood. He was preceded in death by his parents, Glenn & Georgia; first wife, Retha; daughter, Glenda Weaver; brother, Glenn "Sonny" Weaver; and son-in-law, Steve Burks.

Kayden Sue Morris

August 29, 2009
- July 2, 2025

Kayden Sue Morris, 15, of Niles, died Wednesday, July 2, 2025.

Her life began August 29, 2009 in Niles, Michigan born to Bradley "Moe" Morris and Linda Morris.

Kayden loved music and singing. She was a member of the choir at school and bopping around the house to her tunes. She enjoyed the beach. Kayden cherished her brother, even though they fought often. She patiently and proudly loved her cat, Zeus, and her dog, Sampson. She was an avid reader, especially love and romance stories.

Kayden will be greatly missed by family and friends. Her father and stepmother, Bradley "Moe" and Mary Jo Morris; her mother, Linda Morris; brother, Carl Morris, Lucus Horner; sister, Madison Horner; and her grandmother, Carlyn Morris.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Richard Morris Jr. and Michael and Sue Benjamin.

The family will observe a private remembrance.

Kayden will be laid to rest beside grandparents in Silverbrook Cemetery.

The family prefers contributions in memory of Kayden be made to Niles High School Choir, 1441 Eagle Street, Niles, Michigan 49120.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Halbritter Wickens Funeral Services, Niles. Please share a memory or a message online: halbritterwickens.com.

Richard C. Binns, Sr.

January 14, 1934
- July 5, 2025

Richard Carlisle Binns, Sr., age 91 years of Niles, Michigan; husband, father, grandfather, brother, machinist, and lawn perfectionist died peacefully at 2:10 p.m. on Monday, July 7, 2025 at West Woods of Niles following a brief illness. His family is grateful for all the healthcare professionals who enabled Richard to remain at home until the last few days.

He was born on January 14, 1934 in Niles to Clem C. and Pauline V. (Hartzell) Binns, and attended Niles Community Schools. He was a talented machinist, and was first employed in the shops of the former Niles plant of the Kawneer Corporation. At 21-years-old, he built his house - just 2 blocks away from his parents - where he would reside the rest of his life. After Kawneer closed, he was then employed in the family business, Cass Tool & Die in Cassopolis, Michigan until it closed, and he was retired from the Bud's Machine Corporation in South Bend, Indiana.

Richard was a member of Saint Paul's Lutheran Church in Niles. He was well-known for the quality of lawncare that he practiced at home, edging the pavement with the precision of a machinist. He also enjoyed maintaining a flower garden, with special care of the pruning and deadheading of the roses, and growing tomatoes. When inside the house, he enjoyed watching old westerns on the television, especially those starring the late actor John Wayne, and he enjoyed the James Bond 007 series, often with a cheeseburger, or potato salad, and sometimes with a peanut butter and . . . onion sandwich.

On September 8, 1953 in Niles he married the former Marian June Crone, with whom he celebrated last year the remarkable Sixty-nineth Anniversary of their wedding prior to her death on February 24, 2023. They were sadly preceded in death by a granddaughter, Jamie Lynn Binns who died tragically on June 18, 2022. Richard was also preceded in death by two brothers, Jack and Fred, and by a sister, Millie.

Surviving family includes his children, June Wardlaw and Jeanne Reed, both of Niles, Barbara Binns of Nashua, New Hampshire, Richard (& Renée) Binns, Jr. of Berrien Springs, Michigan, and Mike Binns and Danny Binns, both of Niles; grandchildren including Scott, Tia, Jeremy, Emily, Marcy, Nathan, Matt, and Aaron; several great-grandchildren and several great-great-grandchildren; and Richard's siblings, John (& Jolene) Binns of Nappannee, Indiana, and Judy Blake of Niles; and many nieces and nephews.

The family of Richard Binns, Sr. will gather privately for Committal Rites at her graveside at the Silverbrook Cemetery in Niles. Arrangements were made at the Halbritter-Wickens Funeral Home, 615 East Main Street in Niles. Online condolences may be left at: www.halbritterwickens.com

Richard's ninety-one years are beyond the Biblical promise of seventy years, or by strength, 80 years, and he used those years well, laboring to support his family, maintaining a pleasing shelter for them, enduring some sorrow and enduring; all successes, and all fulfilling the command to love God and love people.

Vernon Neal

October 27,1942
- July 7, 2025

Vernon Neal Van Sandt Sr., passed away on July 7, 2025, in Niles, Michigan, at the age of 82. Born on October 27, 1942, in Michigan City, Indiana, to the late Taylor and Neva, Vernon's life was characterized by his laughter and skilled hands.

Vernon is carried on by his loving family, including his wife Beverly (Walter) Van Sandt who he shared 61 years of marriage, daughters Patricia (Robert) Grice and Veronica (Eric) McCombs; his son, Vernon (Kim) Van Sandt; and his daughter Whitney (Brian) Miller. His memory will be kept by his brothers, Rex Van Sandt and James Snyder. His grandchildren, Valli, Robert, Rebecca, Ashley (Nick), Jessica, Susan, Kaleb, Austin and was a great-grandfather to twenty-six great-grandchildren. Preceded in death by his parents and eight brothers.

For over three decades, Vernon was a proud member of the Local Union #23 Roofers. He was known for being rough and tough, with plenty of grit and as strong as men twice his size.

Beyond his professional life, Vernon was a man of diverse interests and talents. He had a passion for mud bogging, an activity that reflected his adventurous spirit and love for the thrill of the engine. He was a true Chevrolet enthusiast. Vernon could often be found tinkering in his garage, a place where he felt most at home. He found joy in camping, spending time outdoors. As an avid fisherman, with a love for country music and John Wayne movies. However, his humor and storytelling were the heart of the celebration.

Vernon Neal Van Sandt Sr. lived a life marked by the love he gave and the love he received. As we bid farewell to this remarkable man, we take comfort in knowing that his legacy will endure through the lives he touched and the memories he made.

Graveside services will be held at 12pm on Monday, July 14, 2025 at Bertrand Bible Church Cemetery. Palmer Funeral Home- Hoven Chapel is assisting the family with arrangements.

Online condolences may be left for the family by visiting www.palmerfuneralhomes.com

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FOOTAGE

Continued from page A1

first back up unit to arrive at the scene and found Coffey to be deceased with the firearm in his hand with his finger on the trigger.

"I'm amazed at how well Deputy Landon performed under extremely stressful and dangerous circumstances," said Sheriff Chuck Heit. "The video shows the male subject was trying to ambush Deputy Landon by acting like he was giving up, and they dropped to one knee, pulled the firearm and shot at Deputy Landon. Deputy Landon's ability to quickly transition from his taser to his firearm allowed him to neutralize the threat of his life and others.

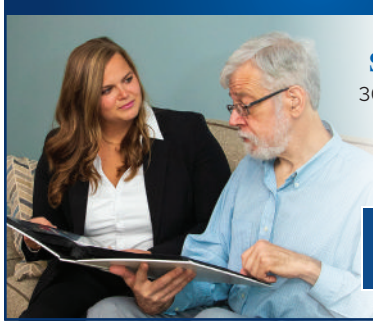
"It is only by God's grace that he was not shot," Heit continued. "His actions reflect both personal courage and the quality of our training and I want to take this time to thank the firearms instructors who train our staff on a regular basis for preparing for this situation. It's something we prepare for but we hope in our career we never face and Deputy Landon did a great job on the circumstances that he was presented with."

> "It is only by God's grace that he was not shot. His actions reflect both personal courage and the quality of our training and I want to take this time to thank the firearms instructors who train our staff on a regular basis for preparing for this situation. It's something we prepare for but we hope in our career we never face and Deputy Landon did a great job on the circumstances that he was presented with."
>
> — Sheriff Chuck Heit

The incident remains under investigation by the Michigan State Police 5th District Special Investigation Section. As a standard protocol, Landon has been placed on administrative leave. Sheriff Heit confirmed that the woman seen with the suspect fled the scene in the vehicle and that the vehicle has since been recovered.

Leader Publications will be updated as more information becomes available.

Celebrate a life



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Brian Edward Flick
October 7, 1961 - July 9, 2024

Michael (Led) Zechlin
Dec. 15, 1961 - Sept. 30, 1988

Gone yet not forgotten, although we are apart, your spirit lives within us, forever in our heart.

Westbound I-94 lane and ramp closures start July 13 in Berrien County

COMMUNITY REPORT

COLOMA — As part of the Michigan Department of Transportation's two-year, $31.7 million investment to repave I-94 between Coloma and Watervliet, bridge rebuilding is set to start Sunday on westbound I-94 and westbound ramps at Friday Road and M-140, as well as on Hennesy Road.

These improvements will provide increased safety and mobility in this area of I-94, which is a significant local and national trade corridor. Closing lanes during this type of work is necessary to provide the safest work area possible for crews and motorists.

Based on economic modeling, this investment is expected to directly and indirectly support 302 jobs.

Traffic restrictions:

- Friday Road ramp to westbound I-94 closed July 13 – Aug. 4.
- Westbound I-94 Exit 39 ramp to Friday Road closed July 13 – Aug. 4.
- M-140 ramp to westbound I-94 closed between July 13-14 and July 20 – Aug. 4.
- Westbound I-94 will be reduced to single lane between M-140 and I-196 July 20 – Aug. 4.
- Hennesy Road will be closed at I-94 July 14 – Aug. 4.

SHARKEY

Continued from page A1

football at Niles for 20 years.

In addition to his teaching career, Sharkey taught drivers training for 45 summers. He retired from teaching in 1996 and with his wife Mary, they have three children, 11 grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

Karl has been very active in the community by serving the Niles City Club, Elks Club and Knights of Columbus. He was a board member of Howard Township Park and the Greater Niles Parks and Recreation. Karl also volunteers his time with Meals on Wheels, is an usher with St. Mary's Catholic Church and a proud volunteer the last 15 years with Howard/Ellis Elementary School.

Since its establishment in 2009, the Niles Education Foundation has invested more than $307,000 for the enhancement of public education at Niles Community Schools. The role of the Niles Education Foundation is to garner private support and public engagement for Niles Community Schools. As a tax-exempt, non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization, the Foundation provides Niles Community Schools with funding that is typically more flexible than restricted tax dollars.

Tickets to the "Legendary Evening" where we will honor Karl Sharkey are $50 per person which include raffles, heavy hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar.

For more information on specific giving or purchasing tickets please call the foundation office at (269) 683-6662 or visit www.nilseducationfoundation.org.

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FOOTBALL

Bernard Thomas inducted into MHSFCA Hall of Fame

By SCOTT HASSINGER
Leader Publications Contributor

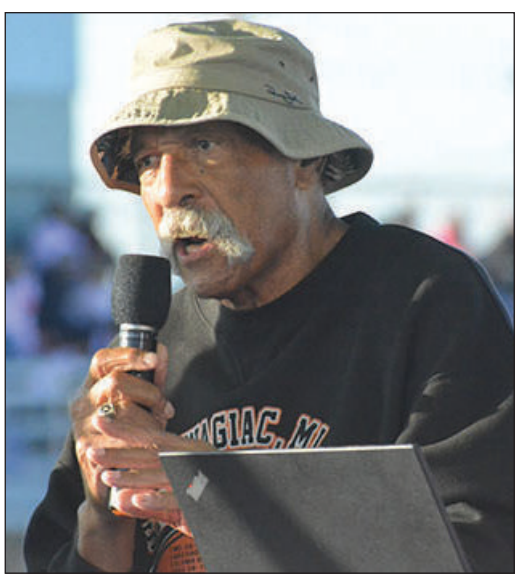
DOWAGIAC — Former Dowagiac Union football coach Bernard Thomas was recently recognized for the impact he left in his 16 seasons coaching the game at the prep level.

Thomas, a Cassopolis native, was one of 14 individuals inducted into the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association's Hall of Fame during ceremonies held at its annual Awards Banquet held on Friday, June 20 in Southfield.

After serving three seasons as a varsity assistant at Dowagiac under Denny Dock, Thomas took over as the Chieftains' head coach after Dock departed to become Stevensville-Lakeshore's varsity mentor. Thomas piloted Dowagiac's program from 1988-2002 compiling an overall win-loss mark of 117-39. His 1990 Chieftains' squad captured the Class BB state championship with a 35-14 win over Oxford at the Pontiac Silverdome.

Seven years after retiring as Dowagiac's coach, Thomas returned to the field to coach his alma-mater and guide Cassopolis to a record of 14-6 and two consecutive playoff appearances in the 2010 and 2011 seasons before hanging up his whistle for

See THOMAS, Page B2



SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

MOTOCROSS

REDBUD RALLY

Shimoda, Jett Lawrence take home 52nd RedBud National titles

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

BUCHANAN — Jo Shimoda and Jett Lawrence were the 250cc and 450cc 2024 RedBud Nationals champions in Buchanan Saturday, July 5.

In the 250 cc category, Shimoda finished first in both the first moto and the second to pick up the victory.

Jake Swoll placed sixth in the first moto and third in the second, which left him in second place.

The third and final spot on the podium went to Michael Mosiman, who placed fourth in both motos.

Pro Championship Motocross 250cc overall leader Haiden Deegan placed fifth overall as he went 14th and second in the two motos before a wild crowd at RedBud MX in Buchanan. Levi Kitchen, who is third overall in the standings, finished second in the first moto and 19th in the second. Deegan holds a 274-236 lead over Shimoda, who with the win stands

See RALLY, Page B3

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JEFF DOUGLAS

FOOTBALL

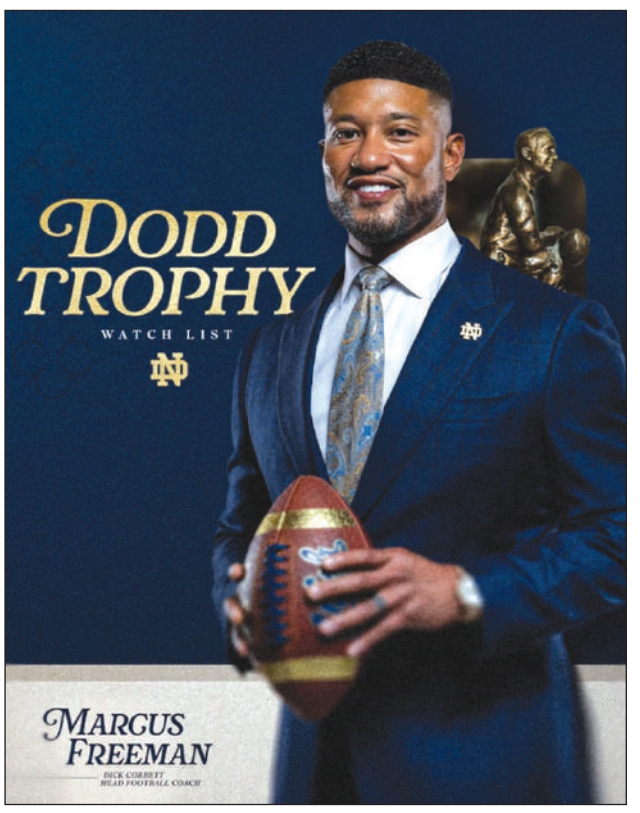
Freeman named to Dodd Trophy Watch List

COURTESY OF NOTRE DAME ATHLETICS

SOUTH BEND, Ind. – Dick Corbett Head Football Coach Marcus Freeman, the winner of the 2024 Dodd Trophy, has earned selection to the award's 2025 watch list. The Dodd Trophy celebrates the head coach of a team who enjoys success on the gridiron, while also stressing the importance of scholarship, leadership and integrity – the three pillars of legendary coach Bobby Dodd's coaching philosophy.

Now celebrating its 50th anniversary this season, the

See LIST, Page B3



WRESTLING

Riley's Gindelberger, Howard to wrestle for SMC

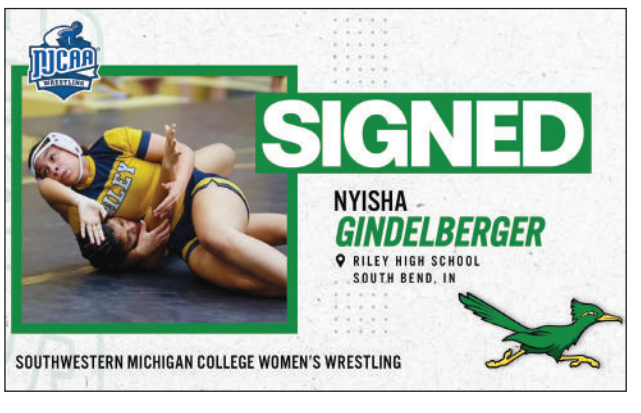
COURTESY OF SMC ATHLETICS

DOWAGIAC — A pair of South Bend standouts will be taking their talents to Dowagiac this fall.

Nyisha Gindelberger and Ja'Niya Howard of Riley High School in South Bend have signed their NJCAA Letter of Intents to wrestle for Coach Todd Hesson and the Roadrunners during the 2025-2026 season.

Gindelberger is a three-time state placer, two-time Riley High School MVP and three-time team captain. She also was the Division 2

See WRESTLE, Page B3



SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

BASKETBALL

Hidalgo, USA Basketball win 2025 FIBA AmeriCup Gold Medal

COURTESY OF NOTRE DAME ATHLETICS

SANTIAGO, Chile — For the third time in her young career, Hannah Hidalgo is a Team USA gold medalist.

On Sunday, the Notre Dame guard and two-time All-American helped the United States National Team defeat Brazil, 92-84, to win the 2025 FIBA Women's Americup. The American squad finished play with a perfect 7-0 record to earn its fifth gold medal at the event and third over the last four competitions.

Hidalgo finished with 16 points, including knocking down a pair of free throws with 8 seconds left to give Team USA the win. She went 8-9 from the free throw line and also posted 7 rebounds, 4 assists and 2 steals.

As has been the case with Notre Dame, Hidalgo was a vital performer for Team USA over the last nine days. Entering Sunday's final, the rising junior had averaged 11.8 points and 4.4 assists per game, marks that ranked ninth and fourth in the tournament, respectively. She also had accumulated a competition-best 20 steals. Her top scoring performance came in the semifinals against Canada, when Hidalgo posted 19 points, 4 assists and 4 steals.

At the conclusion of play, Hidalgo was named to the tournament's All-Star Five.

In addition to the 2025 FIBA AmeriCup gold medal, Hidalgo helped power the Americans to victory in the 2023 FIBA U19 Women's World Cup and the 2022 FIBA U17 Women's World Cup. She was the 2023 USA Basketball Female Athlete of the Year.

BASKETBALL

Johnson leads United States to FIBA U19 World Cup title

COURTESY OF MICHIGAN ATHLETICS

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — With his closing 15-point, 10-rebound double-double, Morez Johnson Jr. of the University of Michigan men's basketball team helped lead the United States to the gold medal today (Sunday, July 6) at the FIBA U19 World Cup following its 109-76 win over Germany. Playing for his native country of New Zealand, fellow Wolverine Oscar Goodman helped the Kiwis with a historic tournament run, ending in a fourth-place finish.

The Americans earned their ninth gold medal in FIBA U19 Men's World Cup history -- the most of any country. The U.S. earned gold in 1979, 1983, 1991, 2009, 2013, 2015, 2019, 2021 and 2025.

After earning gold with Team USA at the 2024 FIBA U18 AmeriCup, Johnson earned a roster spot for the 2025 World Cup squad, which had a quest for gold after missing the podium in 2023.

Averaging 9.4 points, 6.4 rebounds and 1.7 blocks in 18.6 minutes, Johnson was instrumental in the U.S. sweeping Group D pool play after wins over Australia (88-73), France (108-77) and Cameroon (129-70). He highlighted group play with a 10-point, 10-rebound, four-block and two-steal performance in the opener with Australia.

Following a dominating 140-67 win over Jordan in the Round of 16, the U.S. faced a showdown with Canada in the quarterfinals. In a back-and-forth battle, the Americans held off the Canadians to reach the semifinals with a 108-102 victory. Johnson and Goodman met in the semifinal, as the Americans once again cruised to the championship game following a 120-64 win over the Kiwis.

Providing the spark in three of the four quarters in the title game against Germany, Johnson's double-double helped the U.S. earn redemption and win its ninth gold medal.

Scoring more than 100 points in six of its seven games, the United States' average of 114.6 per game, eclipsed the previous mark of 108.9 by the legendary Yugoslavia team from 1987, which included the likes of Toni Kukoc, Dino Radja, Vlade Divac and Sasa Djordjevic. The previous scoring average high for an American squad was 104.7 and came in 1979.

With Goodman's play, he helped New Zealand reach several historic moments in Switzerland. First, the Kiwis won their Group A pool (2-1), advanced to their first quarterfinal and semifinal appearance at the U19 World Cup and closed earning the country's top four finish.

Averaging 6.4 points, 5.1 rebounds, and 2.3 assists in 19.1 minutes, Goodman was instrumental in the Kiwis advancing to the semifinals after his 13-point, 13-rebound double-double helped New Zealand defeat host Switzerland, 84-70. After a tough defeat at the hands of the United States in the semifinal, Goodman and New Zealand still had an opportunity to bring home a medal.

An early right ankle injury limited Goodman to playing only the first three and a half minutes against Slovenia. Despite a last-minute rally and trailing by two points, Slovenian free throws sealed the win, 91-87, as the Kiwis closed fourth.

Both Johnson and Goodman are expected to return to Ann Arbor to continue their summer semester and practices with the rest of the Wolverines.

THOMAS

Continued from page B1

good.

"This honor was very unexpected, but one that I am very appreciative of to be included in a very select group of coaches. It's the icing on the cake in my coaching career," Thomas said.

But Thomas quickly pointed out that he couldn't have enjoyed the success he did, especially during his tenure in Dowagiac without the incredible support he received from the school administration, community, coaching staff, parents and the effort put forth on the field by each of his players.

"The support I received from the administrators, our athletic directors, community and parents was tremendous. This is more of an award for the community of Dowagiac. Much of the credit goes to the kids that played for me too," Thomas said.

While every team Thomas coached was special to him, the 1990 squad is a team that really stands out. Dowagiac finished 12-1 that season, the Chieftains' lone loss came to Lakeshore 17-7 in the season's second week. The Chieftains reeled off 11 consecutive victories and outscored its opponents 574-85 that year.

"That team had real good senior leadership. They were a very intelligent and determined group of individuals and several of them went on to become dentists, doctors or successful businessmen," Thomas recalls.

Greg Younger, Thomas' starting quarterback on the 1990 title team, went on to become Dowagiac's AD and currently serves in the same role at Lakeshore. Thomas also coached standouts such as Brent Lesniak and Jamie White, both of whom went on to play at the collegiate level.

Thomas' 1997 Dowagiac team went undefeated before losing a 28-19 decision to Kingsford in the 1996 state Class BB semifinals. That Chieftains squad finished 11-1.

Before teams automatically qualified for the postseason with at least six wins, Thomas had four 8-1 Dowagiac teams that didn't qualify for the postseason under the old system.

Thomas recalls a game Dowagiac played in Bowling Green, OH during the 1996 as one of his most memorable.

"Our success in football got us kicked out of the conference for a couple years so we competed as an Independent. Bob Follett was our AD at the time and he scheduled a game at Bowling Green, OH. We didn't know anything about them because their head coach refused to exchange game films. We beat them 38-26 and that loss kept them out of the Ohio playoffs and helped us qualify for the postseason here. After the game I made eye contact with their head coach as we were getting on the bus so I yelled out, Thanks for the game tape coach," Thomas laughed as he recalled the circumstances surrounding that matchup.

Thomas included the tale of that game during his acceptance speech at the Induction Ceremony.

The old rivalry games against Three Rivers and Lakeshore are another big memory that Thomas will remember most from his coaching career.

"Those games were something really special. You would easily see five or six thousand people at those games. Southwestern Michigan used to have some great football rivalries," Thomas recalled.

Thomas, a former middle school social studies instructor at Dowagiac, says his coaching philosophy was based on the Golden Rule of being firm, but fair.

"I always tried to get our kids into the best positions that would help the team the most. I'm very proud of the attitude we were able to instill in our players to always battle until the final whistle," Thomas said.

Besides Thomas, the rest of the 2025 MHSFCA Induction Class includes Mike Berutti (West Iron County), Richard J. Corset (Jackson Lumen Christi), William E. Dunn II (Saugatuck), Don Galster (Wyoming Kelloggsville), Jason McIntyre (Mount Pleasant), Gregory A. Morrison (Jonesville), Tim Parker (Muskegon Oakridge), David Richard (Hudson), Glen Samson (Mendon), Jim Sparks (Clawson), Foud 'Walker' Zaban (Deaborn Fordson), Dave Hills (Boyne City) and Les Therrian (St. Ignace).

MHSAA

MHSAA: One last look back as we turn focus toward future

COURTESY OF THE MHSAA

LANSING — Some of America's most iconic athletes and personalities began their journeys in MHSAA sports. While we've done our best to highlight a diverse range of individuals across various sports and professions, a single year simply isn't enough to capture every standout story.

Michigan high schools have produced an incredible array of talent — and the following are just another glimpse of that legacy:

• Kirk Gibson (Waterford Kettering) – The 1988 National League MVP also played a pivotal role in the Detroit Tigers' 1984 World Series championship and starred in football as well at Michigan State.

• Jake Long (Lapeer East) – Selected as the NFL's No. 1 overall draft pick in 2008, he's among a distinguished list of Michigan high school alums to go early in the draft, including Braylon Edwards (Harper Woods Bishop Gallagher, No. 3 in 2005), Carl Banks (Flint Beecher, No. 3 in 1984), Jerome Bettis (Detroit Mackenzie, No. 10 in 1993), and Tyrone Wheatley (Dearborn Heights Robichaud, No. 17 in 1995).

• Jeff Daniels (Chelsea) – Before becoming a renowned actor with credits like The Newsroom, Escanaba in da Moonlight, and Dumb and Dumber, Daniels was a high school baseball player.

• Lisa Byington (Portage Northern) – A trailblazing broadcaster, she serves as the play-by-play voice for the Milwaukee Bucks and regularly appears on CBS during NCAA Basketball Tournaments.

• Kristin Haynie (Mason) – She was first athlete to play in both the NCAA Women's Division I Basketball Championship and the WNBA Finals in the same calendar year.

• Jalen Rose, Voshon Lenard, and Howard Eisley – This trio of NBA professionals once shared the court at Detroit Southwestern, making it one of the most talent-rich high school teams in state history.

• Jim Abbott (Flint Central) – Born without a right hand, Abbott defied the odds to pitch for 10 seasons in Major League Baseball.

• Earl Morrall (Muskegon) – He was named NFL MVP in 1968 and enjoyed a long and successful pro football career.

• Charlie Gehringer (Fowlerville) and Hal Newhouser (Detroit Wilbur Wright) – Both legends of Major League Baseball, each captured MVP honors during their Hall of Fame careers.

• Kate Markgraf (Detroit Country Day) – A champion at every level of soccer, she earned titles in high school and college, an Olympic Gold Medal, and a FIFA World Cup victory.

• Allison Schmitt (Canton) – One of the most decorated American swimmers of all time, Schmitt has earned 10 Olympic medals.

• Jason Richardson (Saginaw Arthur Hill) and Charles Rogers (Saginaw) – Both were drafted among the top five in their respective college sports (Richardson to the NBA in 2001, Rogers to the NFL in 2003) and faced off against each other as part of one of the state's most historic basketball rivalries.

• Staying with the city of Saginaw, Draymond Green (Saginaw) won a basketball championship in high school (2007) and then four in the NBA (2015, 2017, 2018, 2022) after being drafted in the second round of the 2012 draft by the Golden State Warriors.

And the legacy continues. Olympic gold medal dreams are alive in track & field standouts like Taylor Manson (East Lansing), Hobbs Kessler (Ann Arbor Skyline), and Grant Fisher (Grand Blanc), who are already well-accomplished on the worldwide stage.

So, who's next?

Who will be the next MHSAA athlete selected on draft night? Hoisting an MVP trophy? Standing atop the podium as a champion?

We don't know yet — but as we close the book on the first 100 years of MHSAA history, we can't wait to see what the next century will bring.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JEFF DOUGLAS

RALLY

Continued from page B1

firmly in second place overall following his Redbud victory.

In the 450cc category brothers Jett (1-1) and Hunter Lawrence (2-3) went one-two at the podium while Justin Cooper's fourth and second place finishes earned him the third and final spot on the podium.

The Pro Championship Motocross 450cc standings mirror the results at Redbud National, with Jett leading the way with 290 points followed by Hunter with 239 and Cooper with 221.

LIST

Continued from page B1

award was established to honor the NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision (formerly Division 1A) head football coach whose program represents the highest ideals on and off the field. Freeman is one of three Dodd Trophy winners on the watch list, joining Dabo Swinney (2011) and Brian Kelly (2018).

Freeman enters the 2025 season after leading Notre Dame to a National Championship appearance and a 14-2 record in 2024, with a final Associated Press ranking of No. 2. He was honored with several coaching awards during the 2024 season, including: the Dodd Trophy; the Paul "Bear" Bryant Coach of the Year Award; the George Munger College Coach of the Year Award; the National Coalition of Minority Football Coaches College Coach of the Year honor; the Ted Ginn Sr. Coach of the Year Award from the National Alliance of African American Athletes; and the honorary head coach for the 2024 AFCA Allstate Good Works Team.

Entering his fourth season as the head coach of the Fighting Irish, Freeman has an all-time record of 33-10, with a postseason record of 5-2, including three CFP wins in 2024. He led Notre Dame to seven victories over opponents ranked in the AP Poll at the time of the game last season: No. 20 Texas A&M, No. 15 Louisville, No. 24 Navy, No. 18 Army, No. 9 Indiana, No. 2 Georgia and No. 5 Penn State. The CFP victory over Penn State was the 14th ranked win of the Freeman era at Notre Dame, more than any other Irish head coach in the first three years of his tenure, and tied for the most of any FBS program over the last three years (Georgia, 14).

Notre Dame owned the most wins against AP ranked teams in 2024, with a 7-1 record. No other team faced more AP-ranked teams in 2024 than Notre Dame's eight.

Among teams ranked in the final AP Top 25, Notre Dame notched four wins, the most for Notre Dame since 2002 (four). Notre Dame's three wins over teams ranked in the final Top 10 is the most for the program since 1990 (three).

With the conclusion of the 2024 season, Notre Dame was first in pass efficiency defense (104.4), first in turnovers gained (33), first in defensive touchdowns (6), first in blocked kicks (6), second in fumbles recovered (14), second in blocked punts (3), fourth in passing yards allowed (169.4), fourth in scoring defense (15.5), fifth in passes intercepted (19), fifth in turnover margin (1.13), seventh in kickoff return defense (15.61), ninth in first downs (326), 10th in scoring offense (36.1) and 11th in total defense (307.4).

WRESTLE

Continued from page B1

Champion at the Sarah Hildebrandt tournament.

"One of the best wrestlers to put together a game plan and execute," said Riley Coach Bill Flatt. "Nyisha doesn't allow herself to get into a bad position. She can dominate an opponent if they allow her to."

"Nyisha has a lot of wrestling experience that started in the 5th grade," Hesson added. "She was on the first Riley's girls' team and was the first ever state placer for the Wildcats. Nyisha also takes pride in her sportsmanship on the mat!"

Howard is a Northern Indiana Conference Champion and a two-time state qualifier. She is also a two-time Regional Champion and State of Indiana Runner-Up.

"Ja'Niya is a mean, forceful wrestler who looks for your weakness and takes advantage of that," said Riley Coach Bill Flatt."She's a great competitor."

Ja'Niya is a physical wrestler who loves to compete and is looking forward to her career as a Roadrunner," Hesson added.

The duo joins Orion Ennis of Gobles, Madisyn Harrison of Marcellus, Aurelia Trowbridge of Buchanan, Grayce Swanson of Plainwell and current SMC student Alyse Koss in the growing 2024-25 recruiting class.

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

In April 2024, SMC's Board of Trustees unanimously approved the addition of Women's Wrestling, Men's Track & Field and Women's Track & Field as official NJCAA sports, to start competition in Fall 2025. Only 29 other NJCAA schools nationally currently offer women's wrestling. SMC will be the first two-year college in Michigan to offer the sport.

On April 9, the college announced the construction of a new 11,195 square-foot wing of the Zollar Building that will quadruple the space available to the men's and women's wrestling teams. It will double the mat capacity for practice sessions and provide additional competition space for hosting conference and regional meets. The new facility will also include a dedicated fitness and warm-up area, coaches' offices, locker rooms and additional restrooms. A groundbreaking ceremony was held in May, on-site work is well underway with occupancy targeted for February 2026.

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Color Space Gray
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Asking $500. It is still in the box.

Also for sale, a RIF6 adjustable height standing desk converter — 32-inch wide laptop riser or dual monitor workstation. Easily sit or stand with gas spring lift. Still in the box. Asking $75. Will sell in combo with the computer or separately.

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Public Notices

Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF NILES, MICHIGAN
INVITATION TO BID
GRIT REMOVAL - WWTP

Sealed proposals marked "**Grit Removal WWTP**" will be received by the **City of Niles** in the Office of the **City Clerk, 333 N. Second Street, Ste. 301, Niles, Michigan 49120 until 2:30 PM (local time) Wednesday, August 6th, 2025**, at which time and place the proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud for furnishing the City of Niles with the following:
Wet-well Cleaning and Grit Removal of the following (dimensions are approximate):
Influent wet-well - 9'x 50'
Grit chamber channels (2) - 4'x 50'
Grit tank - 40' x 40'
Recycle Pit - 10' x 40'
Bidders must make an on-site visit prior to bidding.
Adherence of all safety and work rules of the City of Niles WWTP.
Vehicles may be stored on site during the duration of the job.
Vehicles shall be dewatered on site.
All waste collected from cleaning shall be disposed of on-site.
WWTP hours 6am-4pm.
Quotations due by 2:30 P.M. EST., Wednesday, August 6th 2025.
Questions on this request for quotation may be directed to:
John Simpson- Superintendent

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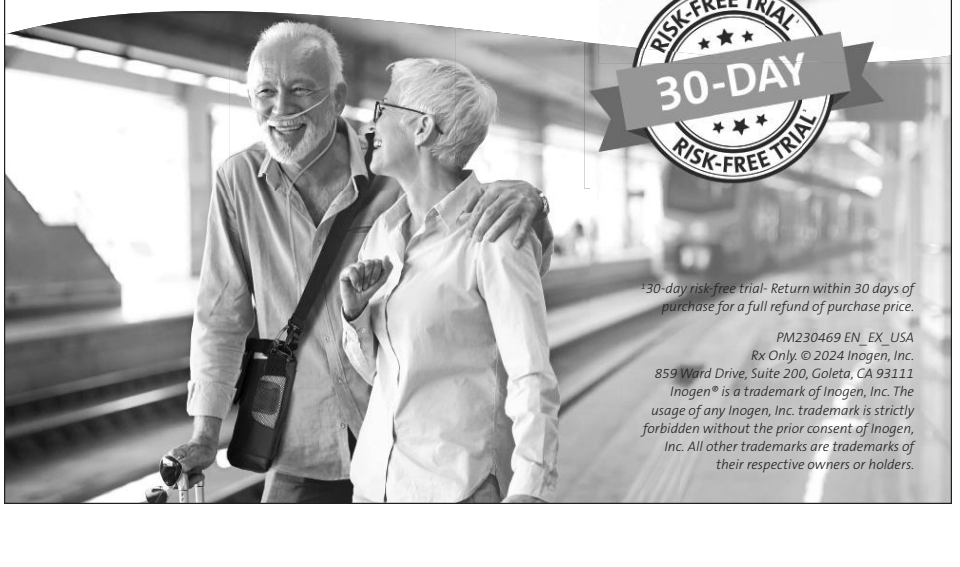

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Niles Daily Star:
July 12, 2025
BIDS/GRIT REMOVAL

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PUBLIC NOTICE

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
MILTON TOWNSHIP,
CASS COUNTY, MI
32097 BERTRAND ST
NILES, MI 49120**

To: The residents and property owners of Milton Township, Cass County Michigan and any other interested parties.
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE the Planning Commission of Milton Township, Cass County, Michigan, will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, August 5, 2025, commencing at 7:00 p.m., at the Milton Township Hall, 32097 Bertrand St, Niles MI 49120, to consider the following matter:
SPECIAL LAND USE REQUEST – Section 15.53 Event Barn – Staci Meggs, 30102 US 12, Niles, Michigan 49120, and is 10.21 acres. Parcel ID Number is 14-070-010-023-03 and is zoned Agricultural.
PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that written comments will be taken from any interested persons concerning the foregoing proposed amendments, at the Milton Township Hall, at the address set forth above, at any time during regular business hours up to 4:00 o'clock p.m. on the date of said hearing, and will further be received by the Planning Commission at the time of said hearing.
PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that all persons interested in the foregoing are invited to be present at the aforesaid Public Hearing. Copies of the Application are available for inspection at the Milton Township Hall during regular open business hours. More information can be obtained by calling Milton Township at 269-591-7982. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services, and wish to attend the hearing, should contact the office of the Township Clerk, by writing or calling the Clerk, at least five (5) days prior to the hearing to ensure needed accommodations.

Milton Township Planning Commission

Niles Daily Star:
July 12, 2025
HEARING

PUBLIC NOTICE

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
PROPOSED PROPERTY REZONING
MILTON TOWNSHIP,
CASS COUNTY, MI
32097 BERTRAND STREET
NILES, MI 49120**

To: The residents and property owners of Milton Township, Cass County Michigan and any other interested parties.
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE the Milton Township Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing during its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, August 5, 2025, at 7:00 p.m., at the Milton Township Hall, 32097 Bertrand Street, Niles, MI 49120, for the purpose of considering a rezoning of parcel 14-070-022-005-01 located at 30123 Redfield St., Niles, MI, pursuant to Chapter 18, Section 18.06 (b) of the Milton Township Zoning Ordinance.
PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the items to be considered at said Public Hearing and Meeting location include, in brief, the following: The consideration, and taking of, Public Comments reference a rezoning application submitted by Kevin Korhorn, to rezone their parcel from the Agricultural District to the Single-Family Residential District.
Legal Description:
14-070-022-005-01 – 2.26 acres – Commencing West 627 feet from the Northeast Corner Section, Thence South 0 Degrees 46 minutes 4 seconds East 354.75 feet, West 278.85 feet, North 0 degrees 46 minutes 4 seconds West 354.75 feet, East 278.85 feet to beginning.
PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that written comments will be taken from any interested persons concerning these proposed map amendments, at the Milton Township Hall, at the address above, at any time during regular business hours up to the night of the meeting. Any persons interested in this rezoning are invited to attend the Public Hearing. Copies of the Application to Rezone and applicable maps are available for inspection at the Milton Township Hall during regular business hours. If you are planning to attend this hearing, and require auxiliary aids or services, should contact the Township Clerk by calling 269-684-7262 as soon as possible.

Milton Township Planning Commission

Niles Daily Star:
July 12, 2025
HEARING

PUBLIC NOTICE

Economy Storage, 2206 Yankee Street, Niles, MI 49120. Auction Saturday July 26, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

Unit #	Name
10	Charmin Kelly
28	Emalee Anderson
32	Eric Johnson
60	Anthony Sharp
67	Jerome Jankowiak
85	Shelden Walden
116	Melissa Kaeding
127/633	Chris Norris
145/467/468	Michael Merritt
148	Gloster Johnson
164	Brady Hattenback
173	George Tovey III
177	Larry Wegrecki
184/66	Mary Anderson
192	Patricia Yoder
195	Daniel Beushauser
196	Colton Wedgworth
205	Nancy Bombrys
275	Zachary Jahrling
278	Chelsie Carlyle
284	Kathleen Peterson
342	Terrence Moss
346	DaMonica Williams
352/355	Andre Ahlers
368	Erin Weed
386	Shannon Lego
389	Parnell Jenkins
390	Larry Hungerford
399	Les Hart
410/534	Rebecca Coleman
411	Ronald Shodowski
427	McCade Reese
429	Aaron Haynes
442	Dawn Hojara
451	Jean Fitch
452	Tyler Mahar
530	Justin Landis
541	Nicole Hurt
605	Michael Lewark
608	Robert Conner
613	Nicole Jones
661/665	Rodney Prescott
677/567	Julie Potate

Niles U-Stor-It, 1314 E. Main Street, Niles, MI 49120. Auction Saturday July 26,2025 at 10:30 a.m.

4	Molly Morse
54	Cynthia Swisher
57	Nathan Haynes

J & J Storage, 2220 S. 13th Street and 2627 S. 11th Street, Niles, MI 49120. Auction Saturday July 26, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.

57	James Colburn
97	Blake King
126A	John Daniel
199A/88	Nick Gigliotti
311A	Michael Tapia
108	Javier Roman
227	Jennifer Nichols
238/466	James Diss
250	Robert Clayton/ Jessica Vissik
262	Brittany Backus
263	Tamara Holmes
292	The Woodshed Crafts
327	Robert Davis
355	Carson Bowlin
377	Christy Stevens
389	Llandon Ross
426	James Schilling Jr.
452	Aaron Smith
496	Nicole Brugh
497	Courtney Rybolt

Niles Daily Star:
July 12 and 19, 2025
STORAGE AUCTION

Legal Notices

LEGAL NOTICE

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
BERRIEN COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
DECEDENT'S ESTATE
CASE NO. and JUDGE
2025-0372-DE-M**

Court address 811 Port Street, 4th Floor, St. Joseph, Michigan 49085
Court telephone No. 269-983-7111

Estate of Russell L. Bueche
Date of birth: 01/24/1962
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Russell L. Bueche, died October 12, 2024. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Alicia R. Bueche, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 811 Port Street, 4th Floor, St. Joseph, Michigan 49085 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

07/07/2025

Marianne R. Tucker P85815
509 W. Washington Street
South Bend, IN 46601 574-232-5988

Alicia R. Bueche
5639 E. 250 N.
Rolling Prairie, Indiana 46371

Niles Daily Star:
July 12, 2025
EST/BUECHE, R.

PUBLIC NOTICE

**CITY OF NILES
2025 JULY BOARD OF REVIEW**

The Board of Review will meet at the City Hall:
333 N. 2nd Street - City of Niles, Michigan 49120
July 22nd, 2025 – 10:00AM
The purpose of this meeting is to correct a clerical error or a mutual mistake of fact relative to the correct assessment figures, the rate of taxation, or the mathematical computation relating to the assessing of taxes, the clerical error or mutual mistake of fact shall be verified by the local assessing officer and approved by the board of review at a meeting held for the purposes of this section on Tuesday following the second Monday in December and, for summer property taxes, on Tuesday following the third Monday in July.
American with Disabilities (ADA) Notice
The City will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon 5 days' notice. Contact Tina Bergman – 269.683.4700

Edward VanderVries
Niles City Assessor

Tina Bergman Niles
City Clerk

Niles Daily Star:
July 12, 2025
HEARING 07.22.25

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2. **Free standard installation** applies to new Lease subscribers only. Not valid with Purchase option. Limited-time offer. Restrictions may apply.
3. Per the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th FCC Measuring Broadband American Reports." Go to: https://www.hughes.com/who-we-are/resources/press-releases/
- Minimum term required. Monthly service and early termination fees apply. Visit legal.HughesNet.com for details.
- HughesNet is a registered trademark of Hughes Network Systems, LLC, an EchoStar Company.

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN
BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
NOTICE OF HEARING
FOR THE ELECTRIC CUSTOMERS OF
INDIANA MICHIGAN POWER COMPANY
CASE NO. U-21831

• Indiana Michigan Power Company requests Michigan Public Service Commission'sapproval to commence a renewable energy cost reconciliation proceeding for the 12-month period ended December 31, 2024.

• The information below describes how a person may participate in this case.

• You may call or write Indiana Michigan Power Company, 2425 Meadowbrook Rd., Benton Harbor, MI 49022, (517) 367-1242, for a free copy of its application. Any person may review the documents at the offices of Indiana Michigan Power Company or on the Commission's website at: https://mi-psc.my.site.com/s/.

• A pre-hearing will be held:

DATE/TIME: **Tuesday, August 5, 2025 at 10:30 AM**

BEFORE: **Administrative Law Judge Christopher S. Saunders**

LOCATION: **Video/Teleconferencing**

PARTICIPATION: Any interested person may participate. Persons needing any assistance to participate or who are seeking access to the video/teleconference should contact the Administrative Law Judge's secretary at (517) 284-8130 or by email at LARA-MOAHR-PSC@michigan.gov in advance of the hearing.

The Michigan Public Service Commission (Commission) will hold a pre-hearing to consider Indiana Michigan Power Company's (I&M) June 30, 2025 application requesting the Commission to: 1) approve I&M to commence a Renewable Energy Plan (REP) Cost Reconciliation proceeding for the period ended December 31, 2024; 2) approve Renewable Energy Credits as I&M's 2023 Renewable Energy Credit Portfolio Standard requirement set forth in 2008 PA 295, as amended; 3) find that I&M is in compliance with the renewable energy standard requirements set forth in 2008 PA 295, as amended, for the 2024 compliance period; 4) approve as reasonable and prudent I&M's reconciliation of Renewable Energy Surcharge revenues and total actual cost of compliance through December 31, 2024, resulting in a regulatory liability, including carrying charges, of $24,254,316; an5) grant I&M other and additional relief as the Commission may deem reasonable and appropriate.

All documents filed in this case shall be submitted electronically through the Commission's E-Dockets website at: michigan.gov/mpscedockets. Requirements and instructions for filing can be found in the User Manual on the E-Dockets help page. Documents may also be submitted, in Word or PDF format, as an attachment to an email sent to: mpscedockets@michigan.gov. If you require assistance prior to e-filing, contact Commission staff at (517) 284-8090 or by email at: mpscedockets@michigan.gov.

Any person wishing to intervene and become a party to the case shall electronically file a petition to intervene with this Commission by July 29, 2025. (Interested persons may elect to file using the traditional paper format.) The proof of service shall indicate service upon Indiana Michigan Power Company's attorney, Theresa A.G. Staley, 201 Townsend St., Ste. 900, Lansing, MI 48933.

The prehearing is scheduled to be held remotely by video conference or teleconference. Persons filing a petition to intervene will be advised of the process to participate in the hearing.

Any person wishing to appear at the hearing to make a statement of position without becoming a party to the case may participate by filing an appearance. To file an appearance, the individual must attend the hearing and advise the presiding administrative law judge of their wish to make a statement of position. Mich Admin Code, R 792.10413 (Rule 413).

Any person wishing to file a public comment may do so by filing a written statement in this docket. The written statement may be mailed or emailed and should reference Case No. U-21831. Statements may be emailed to: mpscedockets@michigan.gov. Statements may be mailed to: Executive Secretary, Michigan Public Service Commission, 7109 West Saginaw Hwy., Lansing, MI 48917. All information submitted to the Commission in this matter becomes public information, thus available on the Michigan Public Service Commission's website, and subject to disclosure.

All information submitted to the Commission in this matter becomes public information, thus available on the Michigan Public Service Commission's website, and subject to disclosure.

Please do not include information you wish to remain private. For more information on how to participate in a case, you may contact the Executive Secretary at the above address or by telephone at (517) 284-8090.

Requests for adjournment must be made pursuant to Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules R 792.10422 and R 792.10432. Requests for further information on adjournment should be directed to (517) 284-8130.

Jurisdiction is pursuant to 1909 PA 106, as amended, MCL 460.551 et seq.; 1919 PA 419, as amended, MCL 460.54 et seq.; 1939 PA 3, as amended, MCL 460.1 et seq.; 1969 PA 306, as amended, MCL 24.201 et seq.; 1982 PA 304, as amended, MCL 460.6j et seq.; 2008 PA 295, MCL 460.1001 et seq.; and Parts 1 & 4 of the Administrative Hearing Rules of the Michigan Office of

Administrative Hearings and Rules, Mich. Admin Code, R 792.10106(2), (3), (4), (5), (6), and (7);R 792.10121; and R 792.10401 through R 792.10448.

U-21831

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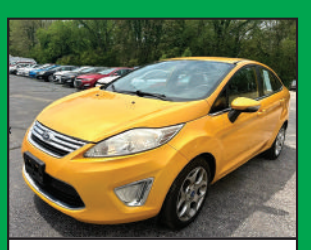

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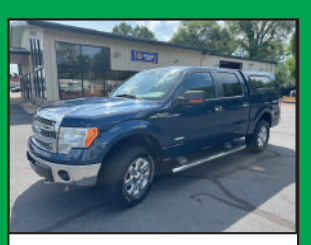

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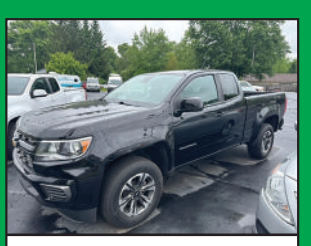

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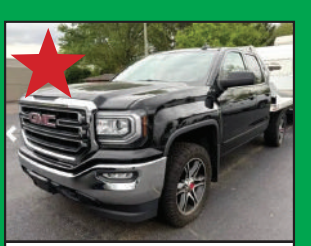

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